



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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July 28, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona Department of Public Safety and Plaintiffs Settle Lawsuit on Racial Profiling

The Arizona Department of Public Safety and a group of civil plaintiffs, represented by the ACLU, have agreed to settle a 2001 class action lawsuit that alleged the agency used racial profiling to pull over and search motorists in northern Arizona.

Today in Phoenix, U.S. Magistrate Judge Lawrence O. Anderson, U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, approved the settlement agreement in *Arnold, et. al. v. Arizona Department of Public Safety* which resolves all claims filed by the plaintiffs.

The complaint was filed after 11 individuals' alleged highway patrol officers repeatedly targeted which motorists to pull over by their race or ethnicity.

Both sides voluntarily entered into the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' Mediation Program to settle the case which culminated in today's hearing before U. S. Magistrate Judge Anderson.

Under the terms of the settlement, the plaintiffs' lawsuit is dismissed. Although DPS does not admit any wrongdoing, it has affirmatively agreed to take proactive measures to prevent racial profiling in the future. These include:

- amending its policies to confirm its intolerance of racial profiling and prohibiting officers from pulling over motorists based solely on the basis of race or color;
- reviewing and revising its disciplinary policies as they relate to racial profiling;
- collecting and analyzing data relating to its traffic stops statewide, to determine annually why, how and where individuals are stopped, and providing copies of its analysis to the plaintiffs;
- training its officers how to comply with anti-racial profiling policies;
- cooperating with and providing all relevant records to a soon-to-be created Citizen's Advisory Board, which will review DPS's practices and traffic stop data and make recommendations based on that review;
- working toward the goal of having vehicle-based video systems in all of its patrol vehicles to video tape all traffic stops, detentions and searches; and
- using a written consent form whenever a search is requested during a traffic stop by a DPS officer.

Under the agreement, DPS will not pay money damages to the named plaintiffs, but potential damages claims of other class members are not affected by the settlement. The State of Arizona will pay the plaintiffs' attorneys fees and costs of \$139,589.78.

For comments involving today's hearing on behalf of Plaintiffs, contact Alessandra Soler Meetze, Director of the ACLU of Arizona at 602-650-1854, or Attorney Lee Brooke Phillips at 928-779-1560. For comment on behalf of DPS, contact Rick Knight, DPS spokesperson at pio@azdps.gov.